

Perplexity and Praise in the Life of Faith

Book of Habakkuk; Coast School of Theology; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-11-18

The Story of the World

What is THE Story?

Paradise (Eden) was lost through the rebellion of mankind against a good God who promises to restore Paradise (new heaven and earth) through the Seed of the Woman (Jesus; Genesis 3:15) who crushes the serpent (Satan) for all those who trust the promises of God (Hebrews 11; Romans 4:19-25).

Where are we in the Story?

1. Creation and Fall (Genesis 1-11)
2. The Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12-50)
3. The Exodus from Egypt (Exodus 1- 18)
4. The Covenant at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19-40; Leviticus)
5. The Wilderness (Numbers; Deuteronomy)
6. The Promised Land (Joshua; Judges)
7. The Rise and Fall of Israel's Kingdom (Ruth; 1-2 Samuel; 1-2 Kings)
8. **The Prophets Before the Exile** (Isaiah; Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah)

Background of Habakkuk

- The name Habakkuk comes from a verb meaning to 'embrace.' (Wilkinson and Boa)
- He identifies himself twice as 'the prophet' so he must have been a professional prophet. (W&B)
- The book ends with directions for the chief musician so he may have been a priest connected to the temple worship in Jerusalem. (W&B)
- The only explicit time reference is to the Babylonian invasion as an imminent event (1:6; 2:1; 3:16) (W&B)
- The most likely date is in early part of godless king Jehoiakim's reign (609-597 BC) (W&B)
- Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah the first time in 605 BC, so the most likely date of the book is 607 BC. (W&B)
- Struggles: no punishment on the injustices and using a more wicked nation to punish!
- Movement: Questions, perplexity, doubt > absolute trust, confidence
- Questions Divine Inaction (Injustice in Judah, prayer requests) (1:2)

- Questions Divine Wisdom (use of more wicked Babylon to judge Judah) (1:13)
- Questions (1) God's goodness (injustice in the world) and (2) wisdom (Babylon judging Judah)
- Babylonian invasions of Judah: 605, 597, 586 BC

I. Perplexity: Injustice Unaddressed? (1:1-11)

II. Perplexity: A Greater Evil Used to Judge a Lesser Evil? (1:12-2:20)

III. Praise: Embracing God's Wisdom in the Storm of Confusion! (3:1-19)

How should this move me to rest in Jesus?

- The foundation of dealing with life in a fallen world is faith in a good and wise and loving God. -Habakkuk 2:4
- The most important way we are called to trust God is in regard to His provision for our reconciliation and the reconciliation of the world: faith in Jesus. - Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11
- If I am trusting God for the most important thing (reconciliation through His provision of a Savior), then I should trust Him for everything else, no matter what life looks like. - Hebrews 10:38; Romans 8:31-39

How should this move me to hope in God?

- God uses evil to judge evil. God will deal with all evil appropriately. - Revelation 18
- God uses evil (1) to judge evil and (2) to bring about good. - Romans 8:28; 3:8

How should this move me to pursue love?

- Sin brings death; sin is not my friend. – Romans 6:15-23
- No personal revenge; leave room for God's justice and love your 'enemies.' – Romans 12:14-21
- Be content with perplexity! (some temporary and some continual) - Luke 21:25; 24:4; Acts 10:17; Galatians 4:20; 2 Corinthians 4:8